

DESTABILISATION CALENDAR

Note: Due to the poor state of communications in Mozambique, many Renamo attacks in remote areas do not come to the attention of the media. This record is therefore incomplete.

January 1-31: Units of the Mozambican armed forces (FPLM) killed 39 Renamo bandits in operations throughout the month in the southern province of **Inhambane**. The troops captured two bandits, and freed 47 people from Renamo control.

February 1: Renamo bandits killed two people in an attack on Mupandeia locality, in **Sussundenga** district, in the central province of Manica.

February 1: Renamo murdered at least 17 civilians in ambushes against vehicles travelling along the country's main north-south road in the southern province of **Inhambane**. Survivors told AIM that ambushes had taken place in the Chissubuca zone, and between the towns of Morrumbene and Massinga.

One of the survivors of the Chissubuca ambush, Maria Makuluve, said she saw one driver burnt alive after his truck was hit and then set alight by the bandits.

February 7: Renamo massacred 19 people in an attack against a convoy of civilian vehicles travelling along the **Tete corridor**, the road linking Zimbabwe and Malawi through the middle of the northwestern Mozambican province of Tete. Nine others were seriously injured in the ambush.

The attackers were wearing uniforms including red berets, which are the typical headgear of the well-respected Soviet trained Mozambican commando units. This deception worked well, and the Mozambican military escort accompanying the convoy did not realise until too late that they were dealing, not with their own comrades, but with a Renamo gang. As a result several members of the escort were killed.

Nonetheless, the rest of the Mozambican troops reacted rapidly when they understood what was happening, and saved the convoy. The bandits were unable to loot any of the trucks.

The convoy included Mozambican, Zimbabwean and Malawian vehicles: international traffic had resumed along the corridor after an interruption of a fortnight in January, following Renamo ambushes on three consecutive days. After this incident, it was again suspended.

February 7: Renamo sabotaged the Maputo-South Africa railway at **Chankulo**, close to the South African border. A goods train was derailed as a result, with the locomotive and ten wagons coming off the track. No casualties were reported.

February 9: Renamo bandits massacred 15 people in an attack against a restaurant at **Chinonanquila**, in Boane district, just 16 kilometres west of Maputo. A further 18 people were wounded (see full story elsewhere in this issue).

February 11: Renamo launched a pre-dawn raid against **Meconta** in the northern province of Nam-pula, attacking every shop in the town. Almost

simultaneously a second bandit group attacked the nearby, smaller town of **Nacavala**. No fatalities were reported from either raid. Both towns are in the rail corridor that runs from the port of Nacala to Malawi.

February 13: Saboteurs, presumed to be members of Renamo, loosened the rails on a stretch of track at **Pessene**, some 40 kilometres north of Maputo, on the railway from Maputo to South Africa. Seven wagons of a goods train were derailed at this spot, killing three railway workers and injuring a further three.

February 15: Renamo bandits murdered a Columbian catholic priest, Ariel Granada Serva, at **Luelele** in the northern province of Niassa. The missionary was travelling between the towns of Mandimba and Massangulo, very near the Malawian border, when the ambush occurred. He received three bullets in his head and died instantly. His companion, a Portuguese priest, José Fernando Rocha, was wounded in the right leg. Two children travelling in the car were also wounded. Once they had stopped the car, the bandits looted it. They even stole the shoes of all the car's occupants, including those of the dead priest.

February 18: Renamo bandits ambushed two goods trains on the line from Maputo to South Africa. In one attack, at **Chankulo**, 74 kilometres north of Maputo, one railway worker was injured and the locomotive was set on fire.

In the second ambush, at **Tenga**, near Matola-Gare on the Maputo outskirts, one person was injured but the bandits did not succeed in derailling or even stopping the train.

February 23: Renamo sabotaged the railway from Maputo to Zimbabwe, known as the **Limpopo Corridor**, by setting fire to timber sleepers along a stretch of 50 metres of track between the towns of Magude and Manhiça. This was in clear violation of the agreement signed in Rome between Renamo and the government in December.

February 23: Renamo sabotaged the Maputo-South Africa railway, unscrewing the rails at a spot ten kilometres from the South African border. Alert crew members of a goods train heading towards Maputo noted the damaged state of the track, and managed to halt the train before it could be derailed.

February 24: Renamo murdered at least two people in an attack on **Matola-Gare** on the outskirts of Maputo.

February 25: Renamo again violated the Rome agreement by ambushing a train in the **Limpopo Corridor**. The bandits opened fire on the train, which was carrying a brigade of maintenance workers, 143 kilometres north of Maputo, between the towns of Chokwe and Magude. The Mozambican military escort returned the fire, and drove the attackers off. There were no casualties.

February 28: Renamo violated the Rome agreement for the third time inside a week, by setting fire to 200 timber sleepers at **Ingubana** in the Limpopo corridor, 114 kilometres north of Maputo.